



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

|                 |   |                |        |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--------|
| Date Issued     | 1/22/08   | Interpretation | 07-140 |
| Topic           | Hardware for Alzheimer's Units  |                |        |
| Code Section(s) | 2001 CBC Section 1003.3.1.10  |                |        |
| Requested by    | John Twyman<br>San Marcos Fire Department<br>(760) 744-1050 Ext. 3407 or 3404<br><a href="mailto:JTWyman@ci.san-marcos.ca.us">JTWyman@ci.san-marcos.ca.us</a> |                |        |

**I have an Alzheimer's facility that wants to lock the doors to keep patients confined to an area. I am unable to find anything in the code that exempts the standard hardware, i.e. panic or lever action. I know you can use delayed release in some cases, but it has been our position that the doors must be alarmed for these patients to alert staff if this is a problem.**

### **Can you lock Alzheimer's patients in a confined area?**

In Group R-2 facilities housing clients with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, approved delayed egress hardware may be utilized when all provisions of CBC Section 1003.3.1.10 are met.

Locking and/or restraining of persons within these facilities are prohibited unless the facility complies with the construction requirements of a Group I-3.